



RETURN

To an Address of the HOUSE OF COMMONS, dated 31st March, 1873, asking for
"Copies of all Communications from Indians or others in Manitoba, with the
"Government on the subject of the dissatisfaction prevailing among the
"Chiefs, Headmen, and Indians treated with in Manitoba, and adjacent ter-
"ritory in the year 1871."

By direction.

OSEPH HOWE,

For the Secretary of State.

DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

OTTAWA, 9th April, 1873.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
FORT GARRY, 12th February, 1872.

SIR,—I have the honor to enclose for the information of His Excellency the Governor General, copy of a letter which I have just received from the Honorable James McKay, on the subject of the Indians with whom Treaties were made last summer and autumn.

It is impossible to be too particular in carrying out the terms, of the arrangements made with these people. They recollect with astonishing accuracy every stipulation made at the treaty, and if we expect our relations with them, to be of the kind, which it is desirable to maintain, we must fulfil our obligations with scrupulous fidelity.

It is quite possible the Indian Commissioner will have every thing ready for the opening of spring, but as it is uncertain where he is to be found, or how to address him, it seems proper to call his attention to the matter through the head of his department.

You will observe what Mr. McKay says, in reference to the seeds, agricultural implements, &c., required when the spring opens ; these must be carried to some of the Tribes, whilst the Lakes remain frozen, and unless every available moment is used after this intelligence reaches you, it will be too late for the coming season. It will be more to be regretted should any disappointment ensue after the sufferings of this rigorous winter. The intense frost has covered the lakes with so thick a body of ice, that the Indians have great difficulty in cutting holes through it to conduct their fishing. They are obliged to go far from the shore, to seek the deep waters of the Lakes, and there, the poor wretches, exposed to the pitiless breezes which sweep across the ice at a temperature of 30° below zero, strive through a thickness of six or seven feet of ice, to

take a few fish to satisfy the cravings of hunger. How they can live through such exposure, is a subject of marvel.

When the Treaty was made at Lake Manitoba, the Indians understood, that they were to receive, as a present, a quantity of food that had been sent out there for the Treaty; but which was in excess of what was required in consequence of the shortness of the time the negotiations lasted, and of the limited number of Indians, who had received notice of the meeting. Perhaps it is fortunate the surplus was stored; if it shall be thought best, at this time of distress among them to distribute the provisions in alleviating the wants from which they are now suffering. I do not know the exact quantity on hand, but it cannot be too much for the purpose, and if judiciously divided among the most needy, would do great good. I have already telegraphed you on this subject, and shall feel obliged, if you have not sooner replied, you will do so by telegraph on receipt of this. It seems to me there ought to be some person here to look after these poor creatures. Whenever they are in distress they rush in to me or Mr. McKay. It is impossible to make them understand that we have nothing to do with them; and in point of fact we cannot resist the claims of humanity, or dismiss without something to eat; whole families on the very verge of starvation. Mr. McKay has been obliged to make some advances to them; they are not very considerable in amount; but ought not to be borne upon the private means of any person.

Since commencing this despatch, I have been waited upon by a deputation of Indians from Fort Alexander, headed by the chief from that quarter who signed the Treaty. They have come in, on purpose to see what arrangements are being made for carrying out the promises made at the time of the Treaty. I have been able to answer only in general terms; that they may rely upon all such engagements being faithfully kept, and I trust they will have no reason to complain. Meanwhile, of course, each visit from these poor creatures involves a long discussion and much waste of time, and as it would never do to send them away without a morsel of food, even if they have no right to it, it imposes a burden upon me from which I would gladly be relieved; if there were any person to whom I was at liberty to refer them.

It would be a mere mockery in reply to their request, for explanations or aid, to say, they may apply to a commissioner, distant a thousand miles from here. It seems to me, that if Mr. Simpson continues to reside, the greater part of the year, where he is inaccessible, it will be proper that there should be some person duly authorized to represent him in the Province.

Mr. Simpson is under the impression that by being out of the way of being called upon, he saves a great deal of importunity and some expense to the Government. This may be true, but if the saving is made at the cost of friendly relations with the savages, we shall not be much the better for the Treaty. The Government of Canada succeed to the position of the Hudson Bay Company with the Indians. And the usage of easy access to the representative of the governing power, which has continued for over a century, cannot be broken up at once without danger.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,) ADAMS G. ARCHIBALD.

Copy.]

Honorable James McKay to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba.

RED RIVER SETTLEMENT,
10th February, 1872.

SIR,—At the Indian Treaties which were concluded during the past summer, at Lower Fort Garry and at Manitoba Post, I explained, at the request of Your Excellency and Mr. Indian Commissioner Simpson, to the Indians in their own language, the terms of the said Treaties. In consequence of the promises then made, and which have not yet

been fulfilled, I am constantly being waited on by Indians, claiming that the provisions of the Treaties should be carried out.

Owing to the absence of the Commissioner or to the want of our Indian agent for the Territories ceded, I am unable to refer them to the authority competent to deal with these affairs. I try to make them understand that it was with the Indian Commissioner the Treaties were made, and that to him is delegated the power to fulfil their conditions, but it is difficult to make the Indian believe that Your Excellency, who is the representative of the Queen, or myself, the medium by which the promises were made, are not the persons through whom they should be carried out. The Indians were promised that whenever they were ready to farm the Government would supply them with utensils, stock and seeds. The heads of families of the Tribes, with whom the Treaties were made, express themselves, without exception, as anxious as soon as spring opens to make a commencement in farming, and have sent to me to know when they can be supplied with these things. The Indians of Lake Manitoba have sent to me to remind me that after the month of March they will be unable to get them across the Lake until after the ice has left, and requesting that I should name a time when they could come for them. These Indians complain that a part of the provisions which were brought up to make the Treaty with, and which were promised to be divided among them were, after Your Excellency left Manitoba Post, put into store, and not distributed. These poor creatures are in great distress for owing to the great severity of the winter, and the great thickness of the ice they have been unable to pursue successfully their winter fishing, and they now ask that these provisions so stored be given to them.

Will Your Excellency kindly obtain the necessary permission from the Indian Department to give these provisions to them, and at the same time find out when the Indian Commissioner will be prepared to carry out the conditions of the Treaties. I am anxious to be able to give positive information to the Indians on the subject.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,) _____

JAMES MCKAY.

His Excellency

The Lieutenant Governor,
Fort Garry.

[Copy.—No. 79.]

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

FORT GARRY, 6th July, 1872.

SIR,—I have the honor to acquaint you for the information of His Excellency the Governor General, that, on Thursday the 4th inst., Mr. Hart and Mr. Beatty, of the Land Department, the former the Inspector under Mr. Russell, the latter a contractor for certain surveys on the Upper Assiniboine to the south and west of Portage la Prairie, called upon me to say that the Portage Indians under Yellow Quill, their chief, had assembled where Mr. Beatty's survey was being carried on, and had forbidden him to proceed, and, in fact, had driven him and his party off the grounds. The Indians asserted that the surveyors were within their Reserve, and they were determined not to allow it to be laid off in lots.

I advised these gentlemen, in the absence of the Indian Commissioner, who is now at Fort Francis, to report the facts to the head of their department at Ottawa, and await his instructions, which I understand they did. To-day I was waited upon by Yellow Quill and a party of his braves. I had a long pow-wow with them, and succeeded in sending them away satisfied. On the explanations I gave them, they promised to withdraw all opposition to the survey. I have informed Mr. Hart of this, and told him he might direct the surveyor to return to his work.

This is another phase of the difficulties which arose at the River Roseau Reserve. When the Treaty of the 31st August last was made, the Indians were promised that

a census of their different tribes should be taken with as little delay as possible; and that immediately afterwards the Reserves should be laid off, allotting to each soul thirty-two acres. A year, or nearly a year has elapsed and not a step has been taken towards ascertaining the number of Indians or laying off the Reserve. Meanwhile, at Roseau, the Reserve is robbed by whites, under color of an authority from an under officer of the Land Department, licensing them to cut anywhere on Dominion lands.

The wood and timber, which formed a principal object of the Indians in their choice of a Reserve, have been carried off, notwithstanding the solemnly plighted faith of the Crown. This of course, is known to the body of Indians all over the Province. Is it any wonder if it creates suspicion and fear, or that the Indians seeing nothing done to carry out the terms of the Treaty, should come to the conclusion to take the matter into their own hands?

This is not a state of things that ought to continue.

I am very glad I have been able to pacify these Portage Indians. They are on the highway to the West. Any dissatisfaction among them would spread further to the West and add to difficulties in dealing with the more savage tribes, great enough without addition to tax the best ability and tact to overcome them.

I feel a delicacy in interfering with matters outside my jurisdiction, but I cannot allow a feeling of that kind to prevent me doing what I can to put out sparks which, if neglected, might produce a serious conflagration. It is quite time these questions should be settled. Instructions should be given to have the Indian census taken and the reserves laid off, with the least possible delay, so as to avoid the very serious complications which may arise if the work is not done. Of course every pow-wow involves a small present, but I cannot hesitate between a few pounds of pork and the public peace, and have therefore ordered these Portage Indians a small present, which, if objected to by the Department I can pay out of my own pocket.

I have, &c.,

The Honorable

(Signed)

ADAMS G. ARCHIBALD.

The Secretary of State for the Provinces,
Ottawa.

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA,

August 2nd, 1872.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th July, 1872, requesting me to communicate with Mr. McMicken and such surveyors as are intrusted with surveying the Townships in the vicinity of certain Indian Reserves, with a view of having the outlines of these reserves defined.

I have done so, and no time will be lost by me in settling the exact localities.

Your letter also contains copy of a despatch from Lieutenant Governor Archibald on the subject of interference in the surveys by the Portage Indians, and complaining that although a year has elapsed since the Treaty of 3rd August was made, "not a step" has been taken towards ascertaining the number of Indians or laying off the Reserve, and that in the meantime an officer of the Land Department has issued licenses for the cutting of timber anywhere on Dominion Lands.

Lieutenant Governor Archibald says also "Is it any wonder if it creates suspicion and fear, or that the Indians, seeing nothing done to carry out the terms of the Treaty, should come to the conclusion to take the matter into their own hands."

I am unaware upon what authority Lieutenant Governor Archibald grounds his belief that no step had been taken to obtain a census of the Indians; but I may inform you that he is altogether wrong in his supposition. Those means promising most success were adopted last autumn, and I have a fairly accurate list of every band included in the Treaty, with the exception of one. Steps were taken to ascertain the number of Indians included in this band, but, up to the present time, I have not been able to obtain any trustworthy account of them. Probably at their payment, which takes place in about a week's time, I may be more successful.

I am at a loss to understand Lieutenant Governor Archibald's expression that nothing has been done to carry out the terms of the Treaty, because I do not know what stipulations contained in the Treaty have been omitted, saving the definition of their Reserves.

No definite time was spoken of for this survey, and I am unable to control the action of other federal officers who may adopt courses of which I disapprove. In a former letter Lieutenant Governor Archibald referred to the delay in furnishing the Indians with ploughs, harrows, &c. These things, however, were promised to be given to them only when they adopted the habits of white men and settled on their respective portions of their band's reserve. No Indian has yet applied to me for agricultural implements.

With regard to the surveys, you will be aware that the Government have only lately been able to deal with the pressing demands of the white population of the Province. The half breed grant, although given long prior to that to the Indians, has been unavoidably postponed, and I had neither power nor instructions to ask the Superintendent of Surveys to discontinue the work laid out for him in order to define the limits of the Indian Reserve.

Mr. McMicken informs me that he telegraphed to the head of the Lands Department, asking permission to appropriate certain lands in order to change the Reserve of about 204 Indians, who, by the terms of the Treaty, were to be settled on the Roseau River. The land these Indians desire is not so valuable as that to which they are entitled, but will suit them better.

I have, &c.,
(Signed,)

WEMYSS M. SIMPSON,
Indian Commissioner

W. Spragge, Esq., D.S.I.A.,
Ottawa.

(Copy.)

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, August 10th, 1872.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that I have commenced a prosecution against one of the policemen of Winnipeg for shooting at and wounding an Indian. The act on the part of the policeman seems to have been totally unnecessary and unjustifiable, and has caused considerable disquietude amongst the Indians. It appears that some few Indians had obtained liquor in the town, and, having become intoxicated, were shouting and making a noise at a place some little distance from the town. They were not apparently doing any harm beyond making a noise; some policemen, undistinguishable by uniform or badge from other civilians, approached the spot, and, at the same time, two Indian lads hearing the noise came up to see what was going on. Some attempt was made to arrest these latter, but they turned to run away, on which one of the policemen fired his revolver at the Indian, and, having missed with the first shot, fired a second time and wounded the Indian in the side. A third shot was fired, but it has not yet appeared at whom.

The policeman says that the Indian had a tomahawk, but all the evidence that I have been able to gather on the subject tends to substantiate the Indian's account, which was that he was a mere spectator, and was at some distance from the policeman at the time of the shot; that he was endeavoring to escape for fear of being locked up—a thing of which Indians have a great horror—and that he never held a tomahawk in his hand in his life. He admits having had a burnt rocket stick which he had picked up, and which can hardly be called an offensive weapon.

I have entrusted the conduct of the case to Mr. Cornish, believing him to be one of the most competent lawyers here, and the case has been adjourned until Wednesday next, the 14th inst.

I may add that the Indian is a lad of about 18, and has the reputation of being quiet and orderly.

His chief and friends of course applied to me, trusting that I would afford them the protection promised them in the Treaty.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed,) WEMYSS M. SIMPSON,

Indian Commissioner.

W. Spragge, Esq., D.S.I.A.,
Ottawa.

(Copy.)

WINNIPEG, 21st September, 1872.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated 17th of August, referring to the proposed attack of Chippewas upon the Sioux at the Portage, and containing instructions as to communicating with them; and also referring to the demands made by the band of Indians known as the Portage Indians.

With reference to the first subject, your views shall be carried out as far as possible. I hear of some collision having taken place between some outlying parties, but I do not think that any one was killed. The Chippewas of Red Lake—in the United States territory—appear to have been the aggressors, and if it is possible to arrest and identify them they will be punished.

With reference to the Portage band of Indians, I have refused to accede to their demands, and, in consequence, they refused to take their payment this summer. I am going on Monday next to meet them again, by their own request, when doubtless they will receive their annuity.

At the same time I have to inform you that it is absolutely necessary to supply these Indians with food for the few days during which they are being paid.

They are called together from their hunting and fishing, and being assembled in large numbers have no means of procuring food.

I have thought it beneficial to give to Indians who are actually settling down certain articles which they believe were promised to them, such as hoes, axes, &c., and which are really necessary to their undertaking the cultivation of the land, the advantages of which it has been my object to impress upon them from the first.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed,) WEMYSS M. SIMPSON,

Indian Commissioner.

W. Spragge, Esq., D.S.I.A.

(Copy.)

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, 23rd September, 1872.

SIR,—I beg to lay before you certain facts connected with the Indian branch of your Department in this country which may be of service to the Government, together with some suggestions thereon, the whole of which are very respectfully submitted.

You are, of course, aware that the treaty relations entered into, or said to have been entered into, with the Indians between Lake Shebandowan and the Lake of the Woods, have been of so unsatisfactory a nature that the bands on the line of route have this year totally refused to accept the Government payment.

You have doubtless also been informed that one of the bands in this Province, that at Portage La Prairie, have likewise refused to take the Treaty money for this year.

As I am not conversant with the facts of the two cases mentioned, I will confine myself to the complaints made by the Indians of the district I have the honor to represent, and the feelings existing between them.

They say, first, that at the Treaty of August, 1871, certain promises were made to them by the Commissioner which have not since been fulfilled.

That these promises included work oxen, ploughs, harrows and other agricultural implements, indispensable to a people who, by the sale of their lands, would be compelled to give up the hunt and depend upon agricultural pursuits.

That, owing to the high price of merchandize here, the three dollars per head which they get is quite insufficient to supply even fishing twine for their nets, and is not even equivalent to the loss of time entailed on those living at a distance in coming to the payment.

That the treaty now in print is not as they understood it at the times when it was signed in August, 1871.

That it was stated to them that no Indians in the other Provinces ever received more than three dollars per head for their lands, and that they have now reason to believe that the Government has before paid as high as four dollars per head.

That the chief councillors and headmen alike only get three dollars per head, whereas in other parts of Canada the chief, councillors, &c., receive a considerable amount more than the ordinary members of the tribe.

These are the complaints made by the band to which I have last alluded, and I have reason to believe that the same complaints are made by all the Indians of the Province; and it has led to a general feeling that they are unfairly dealt with, and that the Government should take some steps at once to redress the grievance.

To have, then, a wide-spread dissatisfaction among the Indians of the Province; this feeling is more likely to increase than decrease, and is certain to influence the Plain Crees and other tribes west of us, and may possibly lead to serious complication if the matter is not at once dealt with by the Government. I have therefore the honor to suggest that, as one of the means of arriving at a better understanding with the Indians, that you should make an appropriation sufficient to cover the expense of taking the principal chief, his subordinates and some competent interpreters to Ottawa, and allow them to confer with the Government in the same manner as is pursued so often at Washington, and with such good results.

The Indians urgently wish this themselves, and I am strongly of the opinion that the effect would be good; while the expense to the Government need not be great, while the Government route is available for their transportation.

I have the honor respectfully to urge that you will favor me with a reply at as early a date as you can, and I sincerely trust that the decision of the Government will be to allow those chiefs and headmen to see you in person at the seat of Government.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,) _____

JOHN SCHULTZ.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State for the Provinces,
Ottawa.

(Copy.)

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, 27th September, 1872.

SIR,—I have to inform you that having heard that Dr. Schultz had promised to take a certain number of the Indians of the Band occupying St. Peter's Reserve, to Ottawa, in the event of their aiding his return to Parliament, and hearing also that liquor was expected to be brought on the Reserve for the election time—I went down to see the Indians and to prevent the sale of liquors if possible. I found that both reports were correct and

explained to the Indians that the Government would not listen to any proposal to bring Indians down to Ottawa, unless permission was first given, and that in such an event, it would be done through the proper channel. As I found it impossible to obtain direct proof as to whom the Indians were indebted for the liquor, I engaged twenty-five special constables for service on the reserve on the polling day, fearing that without them there would be a disturbance as the Indians were much excited.

The payment of these men will appear in the Accounts.

I have &c.,

WEMYSS M. SIMPSON,
Indian Commissioner.

Wm. Spragge, Esq., D.S.I.A.,
Ottawa.

(Copy.)

MANITOBA, 12th December, 1872.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 9th October, embodying extract from letter from the Department to Dr. Schultz, as follows: "With reference to the proposition that a deputation shall proceed to Ottawa; I am desired to state that should their presence here be deemed desirable instructions will be forwarded to that effect."

I have but to say in reference to this, that if such a course was permitted, the authority of the commissioner and agents throughout the Indian country would be entirely destroyed, and the Department would be subjected to endless applications from Indians for receptions at Ottawa.

I have, &c.,

WEMYSS M. SIMPSON,
Ind. Commissioner.

Hon. Jos. Howe,
Secretary of State for Provinces,
Ottawa.

(Copy.)

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, 4th January, 1872.

SIR,—Referring to your letter of October last, on the subject of Indian affairs in Manitoba, I beg to state that I communicated its contents to the chiefs and headmen of the complaining Bands, but that they still insist and even with greater earnestness than before, that the conditions of the treaty as interpreted to and understand by them have not been carried out; and have sent me the enclosed affidavit of parties present at the treaty, to bear out the statements which they made before and which they desire to be substantiated to you.

On enquiring among respectable natives, who did not receive the treaty money, but who were present at the Councils which preceded the signing of the treaty. I am led to believe that the Indians have good grounds for their present state of dissatisfaction and in view of the consequences which are sure to follow a widespread disaffection among the Indian tribes I respectfully urge the Department to give the subject the immediate and earnest attention it is entitled to, with a view to removing the difficulty.

I have also to state that I will be in Ottawa in about a month and will endeavor to furnish any particular information the Department may desire.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,) _____

JOHN SCHULTZ.

The Deputy Superintendent Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

(Copy.)

DISTRICT OF LISGAR,
To Wit:

Personally come before me, William Henry Prince, one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the county of Lisgar, David Prince, James Letter, Sen., Henry Chief, Thomas Flett, William Bear, Thomas Spence; all of the said District of Lisgar, who being by me duly sworn, depose as follows:—

That they are natives of the country and they understand both the English and Indian languages.

That they were present at the signing of the Treaty at Lower Fort Garry last year, and did hear all the discussions which took place previous to the signing of said Treaty.

That on the day when said Treaty was signed the chiefs did enumerate the articles which they demanded in addition to the Treaty money.

That these articles enumerated were agricultural implements for the chiefs and headmen; waggons, horses, harness and suits of clothing; work oxen, bulls, cows, hogs, sheeps turkeys and fowls; on each reserve, medical aid and a school and school master; If they wished to take their treaty money in goods they would be supplied at Canadian prices.

That Governor Archibald and Commissioner Simpson did both promise to the Indians that the things demanded should be given, but said that we will not put all these things in the Treaty paper, but we will promise to make a separate paper which will do as well, and you will be sure of the things.

That these things have not been given, and that when they were demanded by the chief, Henry Prince, at the payment of this year, he could get no right answer from the Commissioner.

(Signed,) DAVID PRINCE,
" JAMES LETTER, Sen.,
" HENRY CHIEF,
" THOS. FLETT,
" W.M. BEAR,
" THOS. SPENCE.

Sworn to before me at St. Peter,
this 30th day of December, 1872.

(Signed,) W.M. HENRY PRINCE, J. P.

(Copy.)

INDIAN OFFICE, WINNIPEG, March 1st, 1873.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of February 8th, enclosing copies of letters from John Schultz, Esq., M.P., the Department's reply thereto, and of an affidavit by certain Indians on the subject of the promises made at the first Indian Treaty at the Stone Fort. My letter of the 24th ult., in reply to a telegram received from Deputy Superintendent Spragge, will have explained the asseveration of the Indians.

There is however the question of medical aid, about which you specially ask, I do not remember any promise of this nature and I have never heard the subject mentioned until the receipt of your letter.

I am a little surprised that the Indians should never have spoken of this in their recapitulations of the many things they believed themselves entitled to, until Dr. Schultz's meeting with the respectable natives who did not take the Treaty "money," and I can only assume that it may have occurred to them, that having been fortunate enough to secure that gentleman as their representative in Parliament, they would do well to cement the alliance by obtaining his services as their medical adviser.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed,) MOLYNEUX ST. JOHN,
Indian Agent.The Honorable Joseph Howe,
Secretary of State for the Provinces.

(Copy.—No. 122.)

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
FORT GARRY, December 13th, 1872.

SIR,—I have the honor to call the attention of the Government of the Dominion to the attitude and present position of the Indian Tribes in this Province and in the adjoining Territories.

First.—With regard to the Indians in this Province, they are urgent that their reserves should be surveyed, schools opened and the other provisions of the Treaty carried out. I consider it of importance that an officer or officers of the Government should maintain constant communication with these tribes, and see that all the provisions of the Treaty are rigidly carried out.

Secondly.—I have to call attention to the singular position of a party of the nation of Sioux, numbering about two hundred men and about five hundred souls. These Indians came into the Province some years ago, having fled from the United States. They camp in winter at the Portage, where the settlers complain much of the annoyance and expense they are subjected to from their presence, and from their being obliged to provide them with food. Some of the Sioux assist the white settlers as labourers in the summer. They have asked for land, and were led to believe, as I am informed, that they would be assigned a Reserve, and if so, they would plant crops and could then be removed from the settlement. I think it would be wise to give them a Reserve, but would refer to the despatch of Governor Archibald, No. 305, of the 27th December, 1871, in which the matter is fully treated of.

Thirdly.—There is a movement of some kind among the Indian tribes in the North-West Territories and the American States. I believe it to be in part created by the Boundary Commission. They do not understand it and think the two nations are uniting against them. A party of American Sioux came up here last summer, and left complaining that they had been insulted, and threatening to return in force in spring. This band are from the Black Hills, west of the Missouri, and I am informed number two thousand warriors. The Red Lake Indians, on the American side have been sending tobacco to the Sioux in our Territory, as it is believed with the view of common action with regard to the Boundary Survey.

The Indians in the plains were, as I am informed, told that they would receive a visit last summer from the Commissioner, to prepare the way for a Treaty, but this was not carried out, and as the Indians look for the rigid performance of promises, they should be complied with as speedily as possible.

Having submitted the position of matters with regard to the Indian Tribes, I think it right to make a practical suggestion as to the best mode of dealing with them. I believe that they can be retained in close alliance and friendship, by treating them fairly, kindly and justly. They should be advised by men they trust, of the real meaning of the boundary survey, and explanations should be given them as to the intended Railway surveys; and all stipulations of the Treaties should be scrupulously carried out.

To attain these ends, I would propose that there should be a Resident Indian Commissioner here, who should be a good business man, competent to draw up Treaties, attend to matters of account, &c., &c., and that he should be aided by two Assistant-Commissioners, natives of the country, familiar with the Indian dialects, and in whom they have confidence, and taken from the ranks of the English and French half-breeds. Such a man as, for instance, the Hon. James McKay, who has great influence with the Indian Tribes, and who gives largely to them of his own means, having done so, in one year alone, to the extent of \$1,500, would be of great value in such a position, and I believe the services of two such men could be secured at a very small annual sum.

It would be necessary also to place at the disposal of the Commissioners, an annual sum to be expended in presents, on occasions of their receiving visits.

As it is of the first importance to retain the confidence and maintain the friendliest relations with the Indians, I submit these views for the considerations of the Government.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

[Signed,]

ALEX. MORRIS.

The Honorable.

The Secretary of States for the Provinces.

(Copy.—No. 25.)

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
FORT GARRY, 19th February, 1873.

SIR.—I have the honour to inform you that I have of late been waited upon by the Chiefs of several bands of Indians, who complain that wood is being cut on their Reserves.

I have directed Colonel Dennis to enquire into these cases, with a view to stopping the depredations complained of.

I find, however, great difficulties in dealing with the question, inasmuch as the reserves have not been surveyed and marked off.

As the matter is one of consequence and is causing a good deal of irritation, I have to request that you will arrange with the Secretary of State that the necessary measures for marking off the Reserves, comprehended in the Treaty, may be adopted without delay.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed,)

ALEX. MORRIS.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State for the Provinces,
Ottawa.

(Copy.)

INDIAN OFFICE,
MANITOBA, 24th February, 1873.

SIR.—In reply to your telegram of the 22nd inst., asking for "a report showing " obligations to be yet fulfilled under agreements and additional to annuities;" I have the honor to inform you that this vexed question is the foundation of what little trouble we have had with the Indians at the times of their payment, and of that which may be yet to come. The circumstances of the case are these: When Treaty No. 1 was in process of negotiation, the spokesmen of the several Indian bands enumerated the gifts and benevolences which they required from Her Majesty's representatives in return for the surrender of the Indian country. Some of these were accorded, some refused; but, in the natural desire to conclude the Treaty, His Excellency, the then Lieutenant Governor and Mr. Commissioner Simpson, assumed, as it afterwards proved too hastily, that their distinctions and decisions were understood and accepted by the Indians.

Amongst the several speakers on the part of the Commission was a clergyman who had been for many years in pastoral charge of the St. Peter's Reserve, and this gentleman supplemented the articles enumerated by the Indians by mentioning others, which the Lieutenant Governor, he said, had authorized him to say they were to receive. Though immediately interrupted by Mr. Commissioner Simpson, the words had been spoken; and, at that juncture of affairs, it would have been difficult and probably inexpedient to entirely disallow them. So the Treaty was signed, the Commissioner meaning one

thing, the Indians another. The proceedings were over but a short time before it became evident that there was some misunderstanding, and with the view of setting the matter at rest, as far as regarded one side, His Excellency the then Lieutenant-Governor, asked Mr. Commissioner Simpson, the Hon. James McKay and myself, as the persons knowing best the circumstances and details of the matter, to join with him in signing a list of articles which we severally and collectively understood to be the things promised to the Indians but not mentioned in the Treaty. Some little discussion took place about this, but it was eventually signed, and, I believe, forwarded to Ottawa with the Treaty, in October, 1871.

This list expressed our understanding of the matter, but it by no means covered the understanding or expectations of the Indians; and, from that time to the present, we have not visited any band, parties to that Treaty, without the untrustworthy nature of the Commissioner's and Governor's promises being thrown in our teeth.

You will, perhaps, remember that in the summer of 1871, the Pembina bands refused to receive their first annuity without the fulfilment of the promises they alleged had been made to them, and we were obliged to return, leaving them unpaid and discontented. In the summer of 1872, the Portage bands refused to receive their annuity and we returned, leaving them in the same condition, and it was merely a fortunate circumstance that I induced them later in the season to accept the annuity and leave the settlement of the questions in debate until the Government at Ottawa could be induced to deal with the subject.

The Indians of St. Peter's Reserve also were loud in their complaints, and, as I informed you in a former letter, kept me for six hours in discussion with their Chiefs and spokesmen before they could be pacified and persuaded to accept the annuity.

There is no difference of sentiment amongst them on this point; however remote they may be from one another, their demands and assertions are alike. In every case the cry has been the same, and there is not a shadow of a doubt that when they left the Grand Council at the Stone Fort they were firmly impressed with the idea that the demands which they had made had been, with few exceptions, granted by the Queen's representatives.

I am not aware whether or not Mr. Archibald was a joint Commissioner with Mr. Simpson, but he was the central figure at the Council table, and the Indians attached as much weight to his utterances as to those of Mr. Commissioner Simpson.

In after times they constantly visited him on the subject of the Treaty. It is necessary to know this to understand some of the conflicting accounts that are given by the Indians themselves. For instance, the Pembina bands based their expectation of a complete settlement of the matter in 1871, on their understanding of a conversation with Mr. Archibald. When we visited them in the Fall of that year they asserted that they had been told by the Lieutenant Governor to go back to their Reserve (Roseau River), and that when the Commissioner visited them to pay them he would satisfy them as to the articles they asked for. Mr. Simpson made them repeat the assertion, and took it down in writing, signed by the Rev. Mr. Cochrane, himself an Indian, who acted as interpreter, for he denied having given any authority for such a promise. The Indians, however, thought that what the Lieutenant Governor had said was as binding as the word of the Commissioners, and so they became sulky and unmanageable.

The following is a copy of an unsigned list in Mr. Archibald's handwriting, and is a nearly correct enumeration of what we have always called "the outside promises":—

"MEMORANDUM of things outside of the Treaty which were promised at the Treaty at the Lower Fort, signed Third day of August, A.D. 1871.

" For each chief that signed the Treaty a dress distinguishing him as chief.

" For two braves and two councillors for each chief a dress; it being supposed that the braves and councillors will be two for each chief.

" For each chief, except Yellow Quill, a buggy.

" For the braves and councillors of each chief, except Yellow Quill, a buggy.

" In lieu of a yoke of oxen for each Reserve, a bull for each and a cow for each chief.

" A boar for each Reserve and a sow for each chief.

" A plough and harrow for each person cultivating the ground.

" The animals and their proceeds to be Government property, but to be allowed for the use of the Indians, under the superintendence and control of the Indian Commissioner.

" The buggies to be the individual property of the Indians."

There was another promise—a promise the Indians never omit to mention—that they should be supplied with a male and female of each animal used by a farmer.

And this appears on another fragment of a memorandum, also in Mr. Archibald's handwriting. Besides these promises, which unfortunately we read in one way and the Indians in another, and to which I will again refer, is the question of reservations and schools. They say it was promised them that their reserves should be laid out at once; so I believe it was. They refer to the promise mentioned in the Treaty that a school should be maintained on each Reserve when the Indians were ready for it.

My report to Mr. Commissioner Simpson, of 15th September last, pressed this subject on his attention, and in his letter to the Department of 21st September, you will observe that he asks for certain authority to be given that the matter may be set at rest; failing, the Government school on the St. Peter's Reserve, the Indians were assessed for the money to pay for the school master, &c., and regarding this as a tax imposed by the Government which they were bound to pay, they made grievous complaint of the non-fulfilment of the Treaty promises. They have since learnt that it was a parish assessment, not a Government tax, and the clergyman of the Reserve, who has more than once asked for relief in this matter, tells me that the Indians will not pay anything towards the school till the Government have fulfilled the undertaking contained in the Treaty. There are two schools on this reservation, and the method in which I proposed to deal with the matter—the Government being bound to maintain only one school—was submitted for the approbation of the Department by Mr. Commissioner Simpson on the 21st September, 1872. The same letter opened the question of a School for the Fort Alexander Band, and one for Fairford. I do not think that any other bands are yet prepared to make use of a school, but of this I shall be more certain after my tour of visits for payments in the summer. To refer once more to the alleged promises:—

The Indians claim that each head of a family was to receive, as he settled down on his share of the Reserve, a male and female of all animals used by farmers (horses, I think, were especially exempted during the discussion about the buggies). They claim a plough and a harrow, a spade, an axe, and a hoe for each head of family. A yoke of oxen with yoke and chain. A farmer to teach them to cultivate the land, and a blacksmith and a carpenter to assist them in building, &c. Seed wheat and implements to cut their crops, and other matters. Clothing for themselves and their families, and food when they require it in the winter.

As most, if not all, of these things were spoken of during the negotiations of the Treaty, and as the Indians never understood the line of assent and dissent of the Commissioner, the latter has given, in those cases where he deemed it expedient, such articles as he thought would really benefit the Indians.

On the 6th of September last, I received a large deputation from the Pembina bands and I formed a memorandum of their wants and the substance of my replies. I send herein copy of it, as it may afford you some light on this question, the speedy settlement of which is so desirable:—

(Copy.)

INDIAN OFFICE, SEPTEMBER 6TH.

Keweelayash, Nanawananan, Waheowash and others. Atkinson, interpreter.

1. *Demand*—Ploughs and harrows.—*Reply*—Perhaps more may be given when the Government are satisfied that those already given are used as intended.

2. *Demand*—A farmer. *Reply*—Some one will be employed to show them how to plough. (Memo. : told Atkinson to devote one week to this end in the spring.)
3. *D.*—A school master. *R.*—Will be sent when reserve is ready for him.
4. *D.*—Dresses for children. *R.*—Cannot say anything at present; by-and-by when children are at school, perhaps Government may allow me to do something.
5. *D.*—Copy of Treaty. *R.*—Shall be sent.
6. *D.*—Wood cut on Reserve last spring. *R.*—Will see Lieutenant Governor about it.
7. *D.*—Pigs, sheep, hens. *R.*—Pigs—yes. Sheep, no, because of dogs. Hens—yes, when I see where they are to keep them.
8. *D.*—Another yoke of oxen. *R.*—Only one promised, can do all the work they want at present.
9. *D.*—Sick men. *R.*—Must take care of their own sick.
10. *D.*—Houses. *R.*—Never promised.
11. *D.*—Store at River Marais. *R.*—No; never promised; useless.
12. *D.*—Hay for oxen. *R.*—Must cut their own hay.
13. *D.*—Locations for thirty families. *R.*—Shall be attended to.
14. *D.*—Using wool of sheep. *R.*—Nonsense.
15. *D.*—Yoke for oxen. *R.*—Yes. Will try and get them one.
16. *D.*—Kweelayash's brother-in-law being moved from American Band. *R.*—Will write to Government.
17. *D.*—Reaper. *R.*—Not necessary for those places.
18. *D.*—Surveyor. *R.*—To be sent as soon as Commissioner returns.

You will observe in this that there are several matters not spoken of in the Treaty or mentioned in the outside promises. It would be a long and tedious story to show the expressions which led to such and such a demand, and to explain the why and wherefore of each misunderstanding. It has been palpable from the first that the present unsatisfactory state of the relationships was inevitable, and Mr. Commissioner Simpson, though always seeking to tide over any difficulty in the hopes that time would exercise its usual influence in such cases, has always expressed his regret at having allowed the signing of the first Treaty to be rushed as it was, when as subsequent events has shown it was so necessary to have a perfect understanding. The full demands of the Indians cannot of course be complied with, but there is nevertheless a certain paradox in asking a wild Indian, who has hitherto gained his livelihood by hunting and trapping, to settle down on a reservation and cultivate the land without, at the same time, offering him some means of making his living. As they say themselves : " We cannot tear down trees and build huts with our teeth, we cannot break the Prairie with our hands, nor reap the harvest when we have grown it with our knives." The Indian can of course be dealt with on the basis " \$3 a head and continue hunting and fishing till you die or are civilized off West"—or he can be induced to settle on his reserve and add to the working portion of the population. In the former case all the promises real and alleged could be commuted for a sum of money down, and the Indians would gradually disappear from here to re-appear in diminished numbers farther west; but taking the latter view as the more desirable one, the necessity of helping the Indian rather with what he really requires than with what he thinks he wants seems to me to be beyond a doubt. And it must be remembered that there is a wide difference between one band of Indians and another. The Portage Indians are hunters living in skin lodges on the Prairies; the St. Peter's Indians live either in houses or in canvas and birchbark wigwams. And even on this Reserve there is a difference of sentiments and customs between the Saulteux and the Swampies, and therefore no inflexible rule will serve to overcome the little difficulty that has wound itself round the Indian question.

I would venture to suggest that the first thing to be done is the immediate survey of the reserves; that is not only defining the outer line, but laying off a sufficient number of quarter sections (as per Treaty), in order that some families may settle down at once. You will observe that the deputation from Pembina told me of thirty families (they gave

me the names of thirty-four) who desired to take up their locations at once. The most ample power and authority should be given to myself, or whoever may be, in the opinion of the Government the proper officer, to prevent the cutting of wood on the Indian reserves. Tools and farming implements might be given or lent to them, according to the nature of the article and circumstances of the case.

I believe I could supply them to the band and make the chief and councillors responsible for them. That is, not responsible in the sense in which we use the word, but in a manner answerable for their safe keeping.

The animals promised must of course be given. The question for decision is "To whom were the animals promised?"

The four persons referred to named a limited number of Indians; [the Indians say the animals were promised to every head of a family as he settled down on the Reserve.

It is but common honesty to say that although this was not promised, the things which were promised, and those which were refused, mentioned as they were by three apparent authorities and spoken of in no regular communication, were so mixed up that it is little wonder if even the four persons most likely to know the exact state of the case, could hardly agree in the precise definition, when that was attempted to be made, within a month after the Treaty; and not at all surprising that the Indians believe their demands were complied with at the time, and that we are now trying to shuffle out of our obligations.

It is not necessary to give all these things at once; I certainly would not recommend it, but I should be in a position to tell the Indians exactly what they will have, in addition to what they have received, and when they will have it. And there can be no better criterion as to when to give them than the demand of the Indian and the approval of the agent.

It is useless giving a pair of animals to A, who has neither place to put them in nor food to keep them through the winter, when it may be proper to give them to B, who has both. In the same way with tools or implements, schoolmasters, and indeed most of the articles they claim. By dealing in a liberal yet careful manner, we may convert those who are now a nuisance and a danger into a population of peaceful, and in their own way, useful members of the community.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed,) MOLYNEUX ST. JOHN,

Indian Agent.

W.M. SPRAGGE, Esq., D.S.I.A.

(Copy.)

INDIAN OFFICE, WINNIPEG,
24th February, 1873.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you, that in reply to your telegram, asking for Pay Lists of Fort Ellice and Behren's River Indians, I telegraphed to you, stating that the Fort Ellice Band was the same that as described in the pay sheet as the Riding Mountain Band, under the chief "Mekis." The Behren's River Indians did not come to the place of rendezvous at the time of the first payment, (1871), nor did they, I believe, make an appearance when Mr. Commissioner Simpson went out to Lake Manitoba, in the summer of this year. They are probably amongst those to whom I referred in my report to Mr. Commissioner Simpson, of 15th September, 1872, in which I suggested the propriety of the Indian Agent being permitted to pay the Indians of Lake Winnipeg in convenient localities without respect to the question of their belonging to Treaties No. 1 or 2.

By reference to that report, which was forwarded by Mr. Commissioner Simpson, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Provinces, it will be seen that the arbitrary line drawn in defining the Territory surrendered by Treaty, throws many Indians into Treaty No. 2, who never go near the place hitherto appointed for that payment. I suggested that some latitude should be allowed to the Indian Agent in the matter of paying Indians in convenient localities, without respect to their belonging to

country surrendered by a treaty not covering the country where they might happen to be assembled.

I purpose to make several alterations in the places of payment during the present year, and I believe that with your authority to deal with such matters, when they present themselves, as I may deem best, I shall be able to execute my duty with more satisfaction to the Indians, and without any detriment to the public service.

To provide for the possibility of my telegram failing to reach you, I may state that the amount paid to the Fort Ellice Band was five hundred and thirty-one (531) dollars.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed,) MOLYNEUX ST. JOHN;
Indian Agent.

W. SPRAGGE, Esq., D.S.I.A.,
Ottawa.

(Copy.)

INDIAN OFFICE, WINNIPEG,

5th March, 1873.

SIR,—Referring again to your letter of the 8th ultimo, in which you ask "what amount will be required to supply a limited quantity of seed to such of the Bands as are prepared to cultivate the land for the maintenance of their families," I have the honor to inform you that the question is not easily answered. It is impossible to obtain information on this subject until the summer, and then I shall not be able to depend upon what the Indians themselves say about it. If a few of the leading men express a desire to have some seed wheat, &c., for the purpose of farming, all the relations of those men, if not the whole band, will declare that they too are about to farm; and in connection with this matter, as with the gift of animals, is an unsettled point. We never understood that Indians already settled and tilling the land, the chief excepted, were to receive those things which were intended to assist an Indian in starting a small homestead—a plough and harrow for instance—but the Christian Indians claim to be treated in all respects the same as the others. Every man in this Reserve will want seed, and some of them will not perhaps use it for the purpose intended.

I would suggest that the Department should empower me to supply such persons as really require it, in such proportions, and on such conditions as would ensure its proper use. It will then be the duty of the Indian to show that he requires it; not mine to show that he does not.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed,) MOLYNEUX ST. JOHN,
Indian Agent.

The Honorable Joseph Howe,
Secretary of State for the Provinces.

1873.